

Appl. No. 10/767,961

Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of October 17, 2006

Amendment dated November 17, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for inhibiting reading of an optical disc, comprising the following steps:
  - (a) providing an optical disc comprising machine-readable, information-encoding features, and a reading-inhibit agent, said inhibit agent activated by optical radiation and operative, once activated, to alter the disc to inhibit reading and to provide a short effective life for the disc;
  - (b) providing a reading device operative to read the disc, said reading device comprising a source of optical radiation; and
  - (c) reading the disc with the source while concurrently activating the inhibit agent with optical radiation from the source.
2. (Original) A method for inhibiting reading of an optical disc, said method comprising the following steps:
  - (a) providing an optical disc comprising:
    - machine-readable, information-encoding features;
    - a barrier layer releasably coupled to the disc, said barrier layer configured to prevent machine reading of the features; and,
    - a reading-inhibit agent, included in the disc and activated by removal of the barrier layer, said reading-inhibit agent operative, once activated, to initially allow reading of the disc, and then to alter the disc to inhibit reading of the disc;then
  - (b) removing the barrier layer to allow machine reading of the features and to activate the reading inhibit agent; then,

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(c) reading the disc after removal of the barrier layer but before the disc is altered by the reading inhibit agent to inhibit reading of the disc; and then, (d) said reading-inhibit agent then altering the disc to provide a short effective life for the disc.

3. (Original) The invention of claim 2 wherein the disc comprises a first surface, wherein the features are adjacent the first surface, wherein the inhibit agent is adjacent the features: and wherein the barrier layer is adjacent the inhibit agent.
4. (Original) The invention of claim 2 wherein the disc comprises a translucent layer operative to transmit a beam of light toward the features, wherein the inhibit agent is incorporated in or adjacent to the translucent layer, and wherein the barrier layer comprises a sheet adjacent the translucent layer.
5. (Original) The invention of claim 2 wherein the disc comprises a reflective film, and wherein the inhibit agent comprises a corrosion-enhancing agent disposed in or adjacent to the reflective film.
6. (Original) The invention of claim 2 wherein the inhibit agent is operative, once activated, to alter a physical dimension of the disc.
7. (Original) A method for inhibiting reading of an optical disc, said method comprising the following steps:
  - (a) providing an optical disc comprising:
    - machine-readable, information-encoding features;
    - a barrier layer releasably coupled to the disc; and,
    - a reading-inhibit agent, included in the disc and operative after removal of the barrier layer to initially allow reading of the disc, and then to automatically alter the disc to inhibit reading the disc;

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- (b) removing the barrier layer so the reading-inhibit agent becomes operative; then,
- (c) reading the disc after removal of the barrier layer but before the disc is altered by the reading-inhibit agent to inhibit reading of the disc; and then,
- (d) said reading-inhibit agent then altering the disc to provide a short effective life for the disc.

8. (Currently Amended) An optical media system comprising:

an optical disc having ~~a first substrate and a second substrate, wherein at least one of said first substrate and said second substrate has~~ information encoding features therein, and further comprising fluid communication pathways extending from at least a first position in the optical disc to at least a portion of the information encoding features; and

a reservoir located, at least, at the first position in the optical disc holding an agent having properties to ~~automatically inhibit~~ the ability to optically read at least the portion of the information encoding features, the reservoir being in fluid communication with the fluid communication pathways in the optical disc; and

a package enclosing the optical disc.

9. (Currently Amended) The optical media system of claim 8 wherein the agent includes a corrosive agent to cause a controlled corrosion process of at least the portion of said the information encoding features.

10. (Original) The optical media system of claim 8 wherein the package controls the fluid communication of the agent into the fluid communication pathways.

11. (Currently Amended) The optical media system of claim 8 wherein the agent includes a fluid to degrade optical characteristics of at least a portion of the optical disc.

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12. (Currently Amended) An optical media comprising:  
~~a first substrate and a second substrate, wherein at least one of said first~~  
~~substrate and said second substrate has~~ an optical disc having  
information encoding features therein; and  
said optical disc further comprising a reservoir holding a fluid which,  
when released, ~~automatically~~ inhibits the ability to optically read at  
least a subset of said ~~the~~ information encoding features.
13. (Currently Amended) The optical media of claim 12, further comprising a label,  
wherein removal of the label causes the fluid to be released from the reservoir.
14. (Currently Amended) The optical media of claim 12, wherein the fluid comprises  
a limited play agent to limit the playing time of at least a portion of said ~~the~~ media.
15. (Currently Amended) The optical media of claim 13, further comprising a  
passage, wherein the passage provides a flow path between the reservoir and at least a  
portion of said ~~the~~ information encoding features, and wherein the contents of the  
reservoir are released into the passage upon removal of the label.
16. (Currently Amended) An optical media system comprising:  
~~a first substrate and a second substrate, wherein at least one of said first~~  
~~substrate and said second substrate has~~ information encoding  
features; ~~and~~  
a reservoir with read inhibiting agent; and  
a mechanism to control the flow of the read inhibit agent to ~~automatically~~  
alter the ability to optically read at least a portion of said ~~the~~  
information encoding features.

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17. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting the amount of time to read at least a portion of information stored on an optical media, comprising the acts of:

- (a) providing an optical media comprising:
  - ~~a first substrate and a second substrate, wherein at least one of said first substrate and said second substrate has information~~
  - encoding features; and
  - a reservoir having an agent that, when released from the reservoir, ~~automatically inhibits the ability to read at least a portion of~~ said the information encoding features; and
- (b) at least partially enclosing the media in a package, the removal of which causes the release of the reading inhibit agent from the reservoir.

18. (Currently Amended) An optically-readable medium comprising:

- an information encoded region, said information encoded region readable by an optical beam from ~~a an optically-readable medium~~ reading device; and
- at least one access limiting agent ~~is bounded by the optically readable medium, said at least one access limiting agent automatically inhibits inhibiting the~~ reading of at least a portion of said information encoded region by the optical beam after a predetermined period of time; wherein said at least one access limiting agent provides a short effective life for said optically-readable medium; and

an enclosure enclosing said optically readable medium.

19. (Currently Amended) The optically readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent is in communication with the at least ~~one of~~ a portion of said information encoded region ~~and the optical beam.~~



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20. (Currently Amended) The optically readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent is located in the ~~optical~~ path of the optical beam from the reading device.
21. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent is an oxidizable material.
22. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent is a dye.
23. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein said dye is initially ~~substantially non-interfering~~ with the optical beam and transforms to a state that ~~substantially interferes~~ with the optical beam after said predetermined period of time.
24. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein said dye is an oxidizable dye.
25. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to ~~claim 22~~ claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent inhibits reading of the at least a portion of said information encoded region by absorbing light from the optical beam.
26. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said information encoded region ~~is~~ comprises a reflective layer.
27. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 26, wherein said at least one access limiting agent affects the reflectivity of the at least a portion of the reflective layer.
28. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent is a hygroscopic material.

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29. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, further comprising a semi-permeable film, said semi-permeable film located on the optically-readable medium, said semi-permeable film regulates said predetermined period of time.
30. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said enclosure is a package that is semi-permeable to at least one ambient atmospheric condition.
31. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said enclosure is a package that is a barrier between the optically readable medium and ambient atmospheric conditions.
32. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said enclosure is physically coupled to said optically readable medium.
33. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent is ~~a photolytic material~~ activated by optical radiation.
34. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent is a photoreactive material.
35. (Cancelled)
36. (Cancelled)
37. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent optically masks the at least a portion of the information encoded region ~~after a predetermined period of time~~.
38. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said predetermined period of time is determined by the number of times the at least a portion of the information encoded region is read by the optical beam.

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39. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent corrodes the at least a portion of the information encoded region ~~after a predetermined period of time~~.
40. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent, once activated, increases ~~the~~ optical scattering of the at least a portion of the information encoded region ~~after the predetermined period of time~~.
41. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent, once activated, ~~automatically~~ inhibits reading by the optical beam by promoting ~~the~~ deterioration of the at least a portion of the data-information encoded region.
42. (Currently Amended) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said access limiting agent, once activated, ~~substantially~~ interferes with the optical reading beam ~~after the predetermined period of time~~.
43. (Original) The optically readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said at least one access limiting agent is contained in microcapsules.
44. (Original) The optically readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said enclosure is physically coupled to said at least one access-limiting agent.
45. (Original) The optically readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said enclosure is a package that controls the environment surrounding the optically readable medium.
46. (Original) The optically-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said enclosure is a package that maintains an environment within the package that is separate and distinct from ambient environmental conditions found outside the package.



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47. (Currently Amended) The optically readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said enclosure is a barrier layer that maintains the environmental conditions within the optically readable medium.

48. (Currently Amended) An optically-readable medium comprising:  
a means for storing encoded data, said encoded data is readable by an optical beam from a ~~optically-readable-medium~~ reading device;  
and  
a means for ~~automatically~~ preventing the optical beam from reading ~~of~~ at least a portion of said encoded data after a predetermined period of time.

49. (Currently Amended) An optically-readable medium comprising:  
an information encoded region, said information encoded region readable by an optical beam from a ~~optically-readable-medium~~ reading device;  
an enclosure enclosing said optically-readable medium; and  
an oxidizable dye located in ~~the~~ an optical path of the optical beam, wherein said oxidizable dye ~~automatically~~ transitions from a first state that is ~~substantially~~ noninterfering with the reading of at least a portion of the information encoded region to a second state that ~~substantially~~ inhibits the reading of at least a portion of the information encoded region after a predetermined period of time from removal of the optically-readable medium from the enclosure, wherein said oxidizable dye provides a short effective life for said optically readable medium.

50. (Currently Amended) An optically-readable medium comprising:  
an information encoded region, said information encoded region readable by an optical beam from a ~~optically-readable-medium~~ reading device; and

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an enclosure enclosing said optically-readable medium; and  
an oxidizing agent in communication with at least a portion of said  
information encoded region,  
wherein said oxidizing agent ~~automatically~~ oxidizes at least a portion of  
said information encoded region after a predetermined period of  
time from removal of the optically readable medium from the  
enclosure and wherein said oxidizing agent provides a short  
effective life for said optically readable medium.

51. (Currently Amended) An optically-readable medium comprising:  
an information encoded region, said information encoded region readable  
by an optical beam from a ~~optically-readable medium~~ reading  
device; and  
an enclosure enclosing said optically-readable medium; and  
a physical deformation agent bounded by the optically readable medium,  
wherein said physical deformation agent ~~automatically~~ physically deforms  
at least a portion of said optically-readable medium after a  
predetermined period of time from removal of the optically  
readable medium from the enclosure and wherein said physical  
deformation agent provides a short effective life for said optically-  
readable medium.

52. (Currently Amended) An optically-readable medium comprising:  
an information encoded region, said information encoded region readable  
by an optical beam from an optically-readable medium reading  
device; and  
a physical deformation agent bounded by the optically readable medium,  
wherein said physical deformation agent automatically deforms at least a  
portion of said optically readable medium after a predetermined

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period of time and wherein said physical deformation agent provides a short effective life for said optically-readable medium.

53. (Currently Amended) A limited play optically-readable disc, comprising:  
at least one substrate having information encoding features with a  
reflective surface to reflect an ~~incident~~ optical read beam so that  
the optical read beam may read the information encoding features;  
and  
a limited play agent in at least one optical path, defined between an  
exterior surface of the disc and the reflective surface, said limited  
play agent being ~~automatically~~ operable in response to an ambient  
air condition to inhibit the ability of the optical read beam to read  
at least a portion of the information encoding features  
wherein said limited play agent provides a short effective life for said  
optically readable disc.

54. (Currently Amended) A limited play optically-readable disc, comprising:  
at least one substrate having information encoding features with a  
reflective surface to reflect an incident optical read beam so that  
the optical read may read the information encoding features; and  
a limited play agent in the disc that, once operative, ~~automatically~~ distorts  
at least a portion of the information encoding features to limit the a  
playing time of the disc  
wherein said limited play agent provides a short effective life for said  
optically readable disc.

55. (Currently Amended) A limited play optically-readable disc, comprising:  
at least one substrate having information encoding features with a  
reflective surface to reflect an ~~incident~~ optical read beam so that  
the optical read beam may read the information encoding features;  
and

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a limited play agent in at least one ~~optical~~ path, defined between an exterior surface of the disc and the reflective surface, said limited play agent being operable to ~~automatically deteriorate the~~ at least a subset of reflective properties of the reflective surface wherein said limited play agent provides a short effective life for said optically readable disc.

56. (Currently Amended) A limited play optically-readable disc, comprising:  
at least one substrate having information encoding features with a reflective surface to reflect an ~~incident~~ optical read beam so that the optical read beam may read the information encoding features;  
and  
a limited play agent to ~~automatically~~ capable of distorting the geometry of the disc and thereby inhibiting ~~inhibits~~ the ability to read at least a portion of the information encoding features wherein said limited play agent provides a short effective life for said optically readable disc.

57. (Currently Amended) A limited play optically-readable disc system, comprising:  
a limited play optical disc having a limited play agent that, once operative, ~~automatically~~ time limits the ability to read at least a portion of information encoded in the disc; and  
a package system enclosing the disc, wherein removal of the disc from the package system triggers the limited play agent into operation, wherein said limited play agent provides a short effective life for said optically-readable disc to time limit the playability of the disc.

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58. (Currently Amended) A limited play optically-readable disc system, comprising:
- a limited play optical disc having a limited play agent that, once operative, ~~automatically~~ limits the ability to read at least a portion of information encoded in the disc to a predetermined number of times; and
  - a package system enclosing the disc, wherein removal of the disc from the package system triggers the limited play agent into operation wherein said limited play agent provides a short effective life for said optically readable disc to limit the playability of the disc.
59. (Currently Amended) An optically-readable medium comprising:
- an information encoded region, said information encoded region readable by an optical beam from ~~an optically-readable-medium-reading device;~~ and
  - at least one access limiting agent in communication with at least one of a portion of said information encoded region and the optical beam, said at least one access limiting agent ~~automatically~~ inhibits reading of at least a portion of said information encoded region by the optical beam after a predetermined period of time; and
  - an enclosure enclosing said optically-readable medium wherein said at least one limited play agent provides a short effective life for said optically-readable medium.



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60. (Currently Amended) A limited play optically-readable medium, comprising:
- at least one substrate having information encoding features with a reflective surface to reflect an incident optical read beam so that the optical read beam may read the information encoding features; and
  - a limited play agent that, once operative, ~~automatically prevents~~ at least a portion of the information encoding features ~~of the limited play optically-readable medium~~ from being read by the incident optical read beam wherein said limited play agent provides a short effective life for said optically-readable medium.
61. (Currently Amended) An optically-readable medium comprising:
- an information encoded region, said information encoded region readable by an optical beam from ~~a an optically-readable medium~~-reading device; and
  - at lease one access limiting agent affixed to the optically-readable medium, wherein said at least one access limiting agent ~~automatically inhibits~~ reading of at least a portion of said information encoded region by the optical beam after a predetermined period of time; and
  - an enclosure enclosing said optically readable medium wherein said access-limiting agent provides a short effective life for said optically-readable medium.